

taking in budget surpluses, the time has come to address some nagging fairness issues in our Tax Code. The House has already done that twice this year by passing relief from the marriage tax penalty and voting to end the Social Security earnings limit.

Now the time has come to address another unfair provision in our Tax Code, the death tax. Today, when a person dies, the Federal Government assesses a tax of up to 55 percent on the value of his or her estate. Thus, many Americans, small business owners and farmers, are unable to pass on their life's work to their children. This is totally unfair. Today, the House will be voting on the Small Business Tax Fairness Act which will deliver relief from the death tax. This commonsense legislation will make it easier for Americans to pass on a small business to the next generation. We should all support this bill that will help restore the American dream to American families. In fact, we ought to get rid of the unfair death tax altogether.

TIME TO INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of increasing the minimum wage for America's workers. In West Virginia alone, at least 5 percent of the hourly workforce makes the bare minimum wage, but by raising it from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.15 an hour over 2 years, at least 106,000 workers would get an increase. That would also mean 50,000 full-time workers in West Virginia would see an increase in their wages. Who are they? It is the senior citizen who is cooking the biscuits in a convenience store. It is the mother who is working full time at a health care center. Today in West Virginia, a full-time minimum-wage worker with two children earns \$10,700 a year, or \$3,200 below the Federal poverty line. I hear the argument that the minimum wage only goes to students. I was one of those students working my way through college on the minimum wage, and the only wage increase I ever got was when this Congress raised the minimum wage. It is time to give workers an increase.

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THE PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in his comments about giving China MFN, the President said, "I believe the choice between economic rights and human rights, between economic security and national security is a false one."

If that is the case, Mr. President, why is the Chinese Government continuing to persecute the Catholic Church? Why is the Chinese Government persecuting the Protestant Church? Why is the Clinton administration going against its own human rights report and not speaking out for those who are being plundered and killed in Tibet? Why is the Chinese government persecuting the Muslims in China? Why, if one reads today's Washington Times, are we allowing the Chinese Government to increase its spying activities in the United States?

Mr. President, if you really believe that there is no connection, then you have not read your own human rights report.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair would advise Members to address the Chair and not the President.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION OF CHILDREN MUST BE STOPPED

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of Tom Sylvester and his daughter Carina. Her story is the fifth account in my series of one minutes on the more than 10,000 American children who have been abducted to foreign countries.

Carina Sylvester was born in 1994 and was abducted by her mother Monika in 1995 and was taken to Austria. An Austrian trial court found Monika Sylvester to have violated The Hague Convention, but she refused to comply with the court order and did not voluntarily return Carina. Carina is now 5 years old and has lived in the home of her maternal grandparents in Graz, Austria; and since 1995, Tom has seen Carina only occasionally and only under strict supervision.

Mr. Speaker, this Nation has an enormous problem with children who have been abducted internationally and Congress must be part of the solution. These one minutes are about families and reuniting children and parents. They are just the first steps in our ongoing dialogue with the American people and my colleagues in an effort to bring our children home.

THE TRAFFICKING OF BABY BODY PARTS

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last night ABC's 20/20 brought something very important to the public's attention, the trafficking of babies'

body parts and organs. Even today the House Subcommittee on Health and Environment is holding a hearing on this issue.

As a physician and a Congressman, I find this practice disturbing, disgusting, and, of course, highly immoral; but the truth of the matter is that this is currently going on in our country. Evidence has shown us that private companies and even public universities buy and sell baby organs for the sole purpose of experimentation. It has been brought to my attention that they pay as much as \$150 for skin, \$990 for a brain, and \$325 for a spinal cord.

To make it worse, companies are making special syringes for abortion doctors so that they can prolong the abortion procedure itself and keep the baby alive long enough to get more money for these parts.

This practice is illegal. It is against the law. It is outrageous, and it boils down to human exploitation and death. I encourage my colleagues to oppose it.

THERE SHOULD BE AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of working families across America. I am speaking in behalf of a \$1.00 increase of the minimum wage over the next 2 years and opposing the passage of tax provisions of the Republicans' H.R. 3081.

The minimum wage proposal would benefit 11.8 million families and allow some comfort and economic dignity. Forty percent of minimum-wage working families are the sole bread winners in their families.

Raising the minimum wage would not cost additional jobs. It is our responsibility to allow everyone, I state everyone, a chance in America to have that dream, that opportunity, to enjoy life, an opportunity of quality of life by earning wages that are so important to a lot of us.

Raising the minimum wage, increasing it from \$5.15 an hour, is our responsibility. We have the responsibility to assure that people can afford a decent living. We have individuals who cannot afford to pay for food to put on the table. We have the responsibility to make sure that America enjoys life a lot better. Let us increase the minimum wage.

SELLING OF BABY BODY PARTS MUST BE STOPPED

(Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the health risks to women that the sale of body parts represents. The evidence that these parts have actually been